



WALTER & LEONORE ANNENBERG
PRESIDENTIAL LEARNING CENTER
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Civic **Engagement** through Writing

RAFT: Role. Audience. Format. Topic.

Common Core Alignment

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Summary of Strategy

RAFT stands for Role, Audience, Format, and Topic. At the end of a unit of study, to both deepen and share their learning, students compose a piece of writing based on their selections for each of the four categories. Though it would contain information similar to a more formal essay, it is meant to be a creative alternative that allows for choice and inventiveness.

Teaching and Learning Purposes

- Best as an end of lesson or unit activity
- Gives students a chance to share what they've learned in a creative format.
- Students have an opportunity to make choices and invest themselves more fully in the work than they might if it were a standard essay.

Adapted from *Content Area Writing* by Harvey Daniels et. al.

Primary Source

Remarks at a United States- France Ceremony Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion, D-Day

http://www.reaganfoundation.org/pdf/RemarksUS_France_Ceremony_Normandy_Invasion060684.pdf

Remember

This strategy works with almost any single text, or it can work as a way to synthesize multiple sources of information. The more students feel ownership over their role as author and creator, the more buy-in you will have on the assignment. Some students may struggle to make a choice, but it is important to encourage them to choose a role, audience, and format that best suits their understanding of the subject, their strengths as a learner, and their interests as a person.

Possible Variations

- 1) Have students choose just the format, but assign them the Role, Audience, and Topic.
- 2) For students that have difficulty choosing, have them role a die so that the Role is selected randomly.
- 3) Have students work in teams of two or three and choose the categories together.



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R A F T

Role	Audience	Format	Topic
Who am I? What is my perspective? What voice am I taking on?	Specifically, who is the intended audience? Am I informing them? Persuading them?	What form will this piece of writing take? Where or in what publication might it be found?	What is the subject? What is the focus of my format?
1) Reporter 2) World War II Veteran 3) Public relations executive 4) Historian 5) Eyewitness to the event 6) A young child 7) Impassioned citizen 8) Other	1) Public back home 2) German school children 3) Prospective tourists 4) WWII museum visitors 5) Self/Posterity 6) Reader of books 7) Elected official or voting public 8) Other	1) Newspaper Front Page 2) Poem 3) Tourist brochure 4) Museum Exhibit 5) Diary Account 6) Chapter from a novel 7) Editorial or Op-Ed 8) Other	1) President speaks 2) The calm after the storm 3) Visit Normandy 4) The battle for France 5) What I just did 6) War: Glory, or Hell? 7) War is (un)necessary 8) Other

My Choices:

Role: _____

Audience: _____

Format: _____

Topic: _____

Reflection

How might you adapt this pedagogy to use with YOUR content and YOUR students?